

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 26-50, 62, 63, and 73-82 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have carefully considered this Application in connection with the Examiner's Action, and respectfully request reconsideration of this Application in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 85, and 86 to specify that the amount of the N-acylethanolamine compound ranges from about 0.4 μ M to about 400 μ M in the composition. Support for this amendment can be found in the Specification at Page 18, line 20. Applicants have cancelled Claims 44 and 45.

Applicants have also rewritten Claims 26, 27, 63, 73, 74, 77, and 80 to be in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Finally, Applicants have amended Claims 11, 13, 60, and 61 to correct inadvertent typographical errors.

Pending in this application are Claims 1 – 17, 20 – 43, 46 – 50, and 59 – 86.

I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 – 17, 20 – 25, 59 – 61, 64 – 72, and 83 – 86 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,200,586 to Lambie et al. ("Lambie"). The Examiner asserts that Lambie discloses the current compositions and that the determination of appropriate concentrations is within the skill level of someone of ordinary skill in the art absent evidence of unexpected results or criticality.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims as amended are patentable over Lambie because they pertain to a concentration of N-acylethanolamine that is critical to the composition. The claims as amended state that the amount of lower alkanolamine ranges from about 0.4 μ M to about 400 μ M in the composition. This translates to only 0.001% to 0.25% of the final concentration. The current

composition is in a ready-to-use formulation and is a bioactive agent. The very low concentration of N-acylethanolamine is critical to ensure that the compound retains its effective bioactivity as an anti-senescent agent and does not behave as a detergent or being detrimental to the plant. By contrast, Lambie's compositions utilize the lower alkanolamides as surfactants. See Lambie, Col. 3, lines 46 – 49. Lambie states that the compositions preferably contain at least 3% by weight of the surfactants. See Lambie, Col. 2, lines 61 – 63. This amount greatly exceeds the amount stated in Claim 1. Thus, Lambie does not teach or suggest the claimed range of about 0.4 μ M to about 400 μ M because Lambie does not contemplate the use of N-acylethanolamines as bioactive anti-senescent agents. This range of concentrations is critical to the composition. For that reason, Claims 1 – 17, 20 – 25, 59 – 61, 64 – 72, and 83 – 86 are patentable over Lambie.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 26 – 50, 62, 63, and 73 – 82 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended these claims so that they are now in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully request that these claims be allowed.

III. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that, in light of the foregoing comments, Claims 1 – 17, 20 – 43, 46 – 50, and 59 – 86 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

If the Examiner has any other matters which pertain to this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by Examiner's Amendment where possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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